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Attachment to Z-15632/83

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NPIC/PEG (11/83)

**ACCELERATED 444F CONSTRUCTION
NIKOLAYEV SHIPYARD NOSENKO 444, USSR**

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1. **SIGNIFICANCE:** CONSTRUCTION ON THE 444F IS PROGRESSING RAPIDLY ON BUILDING WAY 5. (SWN)
2. **REMARKS:** A MODULAR HULL SECTION, APPROXIMATELY 30 METERS LONG, HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED FROM THE ADJACENT PLATEN AREA AND ATTACHED TO THE CENTER HULL SECTION ON THE INCLINED BUILDING WAY SINCE [REDACTED] THE INCOMPLETE HULL OF THE 444F IS NOW APPROXIMATELY 140 BY 37 METERS. SEVERAL ADDITIONAL LARGE COMPONENTS FOR THE 444F REMAIN IN THE PLATEN AREA. (SWN)

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THE 444F, ESTIMATED TO BE THE FIRST SOVIET CONVENTIONAL TAKE OFF AND LANDING (CTOL)-CAPABLE AIRCRAFT CARRIER, BEGAN CONSTRUCTION ON THE WAYS IN FEBRUARY 1983. THE SHIP IS BEING BUILT UTILIZING A MODULAR CONSTRUCTION METHOD NOT PREVIOUSLY USED AT THIS SHIPYARD. CONSTRUCTION OF THE 444F IS APPARENTLY PROGRESSING AT A FASTER PACE THAN THAT OF THE SMALLER KIEV-CLASS GUIDED MISSILE V/STOL AIRCRAFT CARRIERS CONSTRUCTED ON THIS BUILDING WAY. THOSE SHIPS SPENT APPROXIMATELY THREE YEARS ON THE WAYS. (SWN)

3. [REDACTED] COORDINATES 46-56-53N 031-58-19E

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WARNING NOTICE
Intelligence Sources
and Methods Involved

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